

October / November Farm and Market Report

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Commissioner's Column



Tractor Safety - Earlier this year, as summer was beginning to wind down, I received news that made my heart sink. A Massachusetts farmer had been seriously injured on the job as the result of a tractor rollover. It turns out to have been a farmer I had visited the week before as part of

the department's annual apple orchard tour. Shortly thereafter I received an email from a farmer who, without referencing the accident, wrote the following:

"I am unable to find a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Rebate program in the Commonwealth. Is there one?"

After a quick check, I learned that many Massachusetts farmers operate older tractors that are not equipped with protective structures designed to prevent injury in the event of a tractor rollover. I have to admit I was unaware there were programs that offer farmers financial assistance to retrofit older tractors with appropriate protective structures, but immediately looked into it by visiting the ROPS Rebate Program website that the e-mailer included in his message. I was struck by the following facts:

- Each year 4 out of every 100,000 American workers die on the job.
- The fatality rate for farmers is 800% higher than all American workers.
- The tractor is the leading cause of death on a farm.
- The most frequent cause of tractor related deaths are side and rear overturns.
- Farmers in the Northeast experience the highest rates of overturn death.
- 80% of deaths caused by rollovers happen to experienced farmers.
- 1 in 7 farmers involved in tractor overturns are permanently disabled.
- 7 out of 10 farms will go out of business within a year of a tractor overturn fatality.
- ROPS are 99% effective in preventing injury or death in the event of an overturn when used with a seatbelt.
- ROPS remain 70% effective without the use of a seatbelt.

I learned that a number of Massachusetts farmers operate older tractors that lack protective structures. After consulting with staff and others I decided that we should join New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and establish a ROPS Rebate Program. The ROPS Rebate Program will rebate 70% of the cost of purchasing and installing the ROPS (Rollover Protective Structure) up to \$865 maximum rebate. This includes the cost of the ROPS (rollbar, ROPS with Awning or ROPS cab), shipping, and installation charges. ROPS Rebate Program staff will research the type of equipment needed, provide estimated costs as well as sources for purchasing ROPS and send this information to you. While we usually base the value of a particular program on the number of people who we anticipate will be impacted by it. If our involvement in the ROPS Rebate Program prevents even one serious injury it will be well worth the investment in my estimation.

We hope to have the Massachusetts ROPS Rebate Program up and running and accepting applications as soon as we iron out final details. We will issue an e-Blast when we are able to accept applications. Meanwhile, please check the ROPS Program website for more details: www.nycamhoutreach.com/ropsr4u/

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) - Comment Period Deadline: December 15, 2014

Before FDA can finalize the proposed rules, the agency must seek input from the public. Comments from farmers and on-farm processors will directly shape the final rules and are critical to ensuring that the final rules work for small and mid-sized farmers, sustainable and organic growers, value-added businesses, and conservation systems! Go to <http://sustainableagriculture.net/fsma> for background information and how to submit comments. The re-proposed FSMA rules are improved from last year's 'first draft' - but they still need work before they are finalized into law. With the right approach, you can help to ensure good food safety practices across the nation without placing an unfair burden on family farmers.

1. Sustainable Farming Practices

Farmers need to be allowed to use longstanding sustainable practices, like applying compost and manure to their fields for soil fertility. The rules need to allow farmers to continue using the fertilizers that are best for their crops and soil and support conservation practices that enhance food safety.

2. Water Quality Standards and Testing

The rules should measure water quality for farming, not subject farms to criteria intended for recreational water use like swimming, and should account for variations in water systems and sources. Water standards must be flexible, and not subject all farmers to an unworkable, one-size-fits-all standard or excessive testing requirements without a firm scientific basis.

3. Clarifying the Difference between Farms and Food Facilities

The rules need to further clarify “farm” and “facility” definitions to reflect the modern reality of farming and ensure that diversified farms – particularly those pioneering models for increased access to healthy, local foods – continue to thrive without being overregulated by rules for large industrial facilities. The rules should allow for common and safe practices like selling jars of farm-made pickles or including produce from a neighboring farm in a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share. Otherwise, consumers won’t be able to choose the safe, healthy, locally grown foods they want.

4. Fairness and Transparency in Enforcing Rules

The rules need to ensure basic fairness and due process for farmers and food businesses. Farmers subject to multiple FSMA rules should be able to count on consistency and transparency across the rules. The rules shouldn’t unfairly take away farmers’ oversight of their farms; if a federal policy is going to change a farm’s status, the farmer should get a heads up and a meaningful opportunity to respond to that change.

FSMA Background - In September 2014, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released several re-proposed sections of proposed food safety regulations originally proposed in early January 2013:

- Standards for produce production (Produce Rule), and
- Food safety measures for facilities that process food for human consumption (Preventive Controls Rule).

Both of these rules are part of FDA’s implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), which was signed into law in 2011. Unfortunately, the draft FSMA rules as written threatened to make sustainable and organic agriculture, local food, and farm conservation efforts collateral damage. Tens of thousands of farmers, eaters, and experts weighed in with comments to the FDA to let them know that the rules would unfairly burden family farmers, target sustainable and organic farming, and reduce the availability of fresh, local food in our communities. In late 2013, the FDA announced they would re-propose parts of the Produce and Preventive Controls rules. That means our shared efforts made an impact - and that we have a second opportunity to shape the rules before they become law.

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Agricultural Business Planning Courses - Winter 2015

MDAR offers three courses for participants who are 1) thinking about farming, 2) getting going, with access to land, or 3) already operating an agricultural enterprise undergoing growth or change. Our courses are not offered online - participants find most benefit as part of a guided peer group sharing ideas over several weeks.

Attendance is required at all sessions. Fees are kept low through MDAR financial support, and a partner may attend at no additional cost.

Exploring The Small Farm Dream - For those who are thinking about getting into farming or are expanding a hobby to an income-generating scale. This course offers guidance and feedback to help make informed decisions about whether or not to take the plunge - and how to proceed in the first stages. Five sessions over 6 weeks on weekday evenings. Cost per enterprise - \$100. **Amherst on Thursday evenings March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2 - and Marlborough on Tuesday evenings March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.**

Planning For Startup – For those a step beyond Explorer who have a strong sense of what they intend to do and where. This course is a gut check before making significant investments of time and money. It requires completion of Explorer, or equivalent programs and experience. Participants have already made the decision to farm on a revenue-generating scale, and have secured the land and initial finances to do so. Six sessions over 8 weeks on Saturday mornings. Cost per enterprise - \$150. **Amherst Only - Saturday Mornings - February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 (This is the last time MDAR will offer the Planner Course).**

Tilling the Soil of Opportunity – For those already operating a commercial agricultural enterprise and in need of a comprehensive business plan. This in-depth course offers a chance to assess, regroup, plan ahead, finance expansion, or clarify transfer/succession. The course draws on peer experience, Instructor knowledge and guest speakers. Meets USDA/FSA certification for “Borrower Training”. Graduates may qualify for individual post-course technical assistance. Ten sessions over 11 weeks. Cost per enterprise - \$200. **Amherst or Marlborough (depending on location of registrants) on Wednesday evenings - January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11.**

Registration is rolling (no payment until enrollment is complete) - those who have completed an application receive priority on location. Email information/application requests to Rick.Chandler@state.ma.us or call 413-548-1905. Updates posted [here](#).

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Massachusetts Food Systems Planning Initiative

As you may know, The Massachusetts Food System Plan is an ongoing statewide initiative to support increased production and consumption of Massachusetts agricultural and food products to support a strong, robust food system where local and healthy foods are accessible, job and business opportunities grow and land and water resources are protected. Five statewide forums and listening sessions have been held in eastern and central Massachusetts including Boston, Worcester, Lawrence and New Bedford, and at Food Day in Boston. At least two additional sessions are being planned for western Massachusetts in early 2015. It's an important opportunity to weigh in on what's happening in your local food system including on the farm, the food processing arena, and in your community. These forums will provide a platform to share what is being done well, challenges, and suggestions to improve our food system.

Your input is important for to better understand the major strengths and obstacles in the region, and to support the development of a well-informed plan for the Massachusetts Food System going forward. In addition to the listening sessions being planned in western Massachusetts, there will be opportunities to engage on-line and through working groups on topics including 1) Production (Farming, Urban Agriculture,

Land, Fisheries), 2) Processing, 3) Food Access and Consumption/Hunger Relief and Public Health, 4) Wholesale and retail distribution, and 4) Inputs, Waste and Nutrient Management.

To learn more about this process in Massachusetts facilitated by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council on behalf of the Massachusetts Food Policy Council, go to www.mapc.org/massfoodplan. The next meeting of the Massachusetts Food Policy Council will be held Thursday, December 11, 2014, Framingham Public Main Library, 49 Lexington St., Framingham, MA, 508-532-5570, www.framinghamlibrary.org/hoursloc.htm. This meeting is open to the public. [More here.](#)

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Attention Dairy Farmers: Reimbursement of the Milk Producer's Security Fund

The Milk Producer's Security Fund (the Fund) was established in 1984 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 10 Section 48 to serve as a security net that would allow for Massachusetts's **independent** dairy producers, those not a member of a full-service cooperative, to receive payment for their milk in the event of a milk dealer default. Payments of five cents per hundredweight were made by milk dealers on behalf of independent producers to the state treasurer and into the Fund from 1984 to 1997. Since payment suspension, money has remained in the fund and accrued interest, so that a total of approximately \$2.1 million exists in the Fund today.

In December 2013, Governor Duval Patrick signed into law Chapter 191 of the Acts of 2013, an Act Relative to the Milk Producer's Security Fund Reimbursement, allowing for money held in the Fund to be reimbursed back to those dairy producers who paid in.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is currently working on the reimbursement process. Current or past dairy farmers who may have contributed to the Milk Producer Security Fund and have questions, comments, or information to share related to the Fund are encouraged to contact Catherine de Ronde as soon as possible at (617) 626-1811 or Catherine.de.Ronde@state.ma.us.

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Central Mass Grown Buy Local Initiative - NEW



Central Mass Grown is now accepting memberships from farms, producers, nurseries, retail establishments, restaurants, organizations, and individuals for our inaugural year Central Mass Grown Farm Product Directory. Membership enrollments received by **November 15** will be designated as Founding Members, and receive special discounts on membership rates. Forms received by January 15th will be included in the first print **Central Mass Grown** Directory.

For more information and to enroll as a member, please visit our [website](http://www.centralmassgrown.org) at www.centralmassgrown.org, where you will be able to fill in an enrollment form.

We also encourage Central MA farmers or producers to help us with our planning efforts by taking a [farm survey](#). Central Mass distributors, retailers, schools, markets and restaurants are encouraged to assist planning efforts by taking a [market survey](#).

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Will Your Farm Need Crew Members or Apprentices for the 2015 Season?

Let us help you! New Entry connects graduates from our farmer training programs and other individuals looking for agricultural work with employment opportunities on farms throughout Massachusetts via our Farm Employment Directory and Online Employment Map. The New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (NESFP) is a partnership organization of Tufts University and Community Teamwork, Inc. that helps immigrants, refugees, native-born Americans, and other socially-disadvantaged individuals to become farmers in Massachusetts. NESFP offers a comprehensive training course, farmland access, and technical assistance to individuals interested in starting their own farm enterprises. We also assist individuals in gaining practical farm work experience by connecting them to job opportunities on farms.

NESFP is continuing our efforts to develop and distribute a Directory of farms in Massachusetts interested in employing farm labor. Likewise, we also want to identify farmers interested in mentoring beginning farmers. **If your farm needs farm labor and you would like to be listed in the 2015 Directory, please take a few minutes to complete our [online survey](#).**

By filling out the survey, your farm's employment opportunities will be listed in the print version of the 2015 Directory and the interactive, easy-to-use Online Employment Map on New Entry's website. **We hope you'll take advantage of this free advertising for your farm.** Please complete this survey by **December 15, 2014** to ensure that your farm is listed in the January 2015 printed directory. You can access the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/BZ3GBRK. To learn more, visit nesfp.org/farmer-training/farm-employment. Please feel free to email christa.mayfield@tufts.edu with any questions.

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Help with Ag Conflicts

Have you ever found yourself in a conflict with local government or a state agency, say DEP? Or maybe you and neighbors have had some disagreement over your farm stand traffic, your spraying with pesticides or your animals' smells? Or maybe you have an issue with USDA over regulations or a loan payment or an organic certification.

Either way let me introduce you to the Agricultural Mediation Program at the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration's (MOPC). Susan Jeghelian is the Director of this program that used to be called the Mass Office of Dispute Resolution. And she says that, "The AgMed Program promotes the use of mediation as a tool to prevent or minimize escalation of conflicts and to resolve conflicts at the earliest possible stage."

The Ag Mediation Program has two parts. One is funded through a grant from USDA to resolve issues with that agency and the USDA subsidizes the mediation. The other half of the program deals with conflicts that are not related to USDA but are agricultural in nature. The costs for these services vary.

MOPC is also available to help train local Agricultural Commissions in resolving local conflicts. In partnership with the MA Dept. of Agriculture (MDAR) and other agricultural organizations, MOPC provides outreach and mediation services, conflict resolution training and support to Agricultural Commissions to help sustain the community's farm businesses and farmlands. MOPC teaches commissioners how to prevent and manage conflict effectively, and provides access to professional mediators if they are not able to resolve the conflicts themselves.

The agency is housed at UMass Boston and offers services through several regional mediation centers. For information about services for Ag Commissions or producers, contact Courtney Breese, Program Manager, Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC), (formerly Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution – MODR), UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., M-1-627, Boston, MA 02125, 617-287-4046, Courtney.Breese@umb.edu, www.mopc.umb.edu.

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Massachusetts Maple Syrup Wins International Awards - State Sugarmakers Take Honors in Competition

Two Massachusetts maple syrup producers took honors at an annual international maple products contest, held this year in Wolfville, Nova Scotia at the annual meetings of the North American Maple Syrup Council and International Maple Syrup Institute. Sugarmakers from the United States and Canada entered their maple syrup, candy and cream to have them judged based on flavor, color, clarity and density.

Massachusetts came away from the October contest with more awards than any other maple producing state or province, and was the only state represented among the winners in all three of the Grade A syrup categories. The winners from Massachusetts were:

- Grade A Light Amber Maple Syrup: Paul's Sugarhouse, Haydenville, 2nd place
- Grade A Medium Amber Maple Syrup: Paul's Sugarhouse, Haydenville, 3rd place
- Grade A Dark Amber Maple Syrup: Paul's Sugarhouse, Haydenville, 3rd place
- Maple Candy: Boyden Brothers Maple, Conway, 2nd place
- Maple Cream: Boyden Brothers Maple, Conway, 2nd place

"These awards show what many Massachusetts consumers and restaurants have known for a long time," said Massachusetts Maple Producers Association Coordinator Winton Pitcoff. "There's no substitute for Massachusetts maple products! Sugarmakers in Massachusetts make the highest quality maple products, using traditional and modern production methods." There are more than 250 maple sugaring operations in Massachusetts, many of which sell their products directly to consumers at farmstands and farmers markets. A directory of sugarmakers who sell maple products to the public can be found at www.massmaple.org. The 2014 sugaring season was excellent, and Massachusetts maple producers made about 61,000 gallons of 100% pure maple syrup. Contacts: Winners. Paul Zononi, 413-695-3461, Jeanne and Howard Boyden, 413-369-4665. Maple industry information: Winton Pitcoff, Coordinator, Massachusetts Maple Producers Association, 413-628-3912, info@massmaple.org.

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UPCOMING EVENTS / WORKSHOPS

Tourism U - What can Massvacation.com do for you?

November 19 - The Yiddish Book Center, Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building, 1021 West Street, Amherst
The morning session will begin at 10:00 a.m. and is entitled: ***What can Massvacation.com do for you?*** - John Alzapiedi, MOTT Web Manager

- How to keep your listing current
- Adding deals and events
- Checking leads
- Featured placement on homepage and interior pages
- Utilizing statistics and the press room
- And much more

Learn how to utilize the resources of massvacation.com. Come with your laptop or mobile device and follow along with the presentation. (1 hour session)

The afternoon session will begin at 1:00 pm and is entitled ***What you should know about Trade & Media FAMs, and Blogging*** - Lisa Simmons, Deputy Director & Maria Speridakos, International FAM Coordinator

- Learn how trade and media familiarization tours (FAM) can promote your business.
- Learn about the difference between trade and media FAMs
- The types of FAMS that MOTT has organized
- What's expected of the venue and the return on your investment
- How blogging can help promote your business

Come hear about the current trends of FAMs and how they are helping to promote Massachusetts as a destination. (1 hour session)

These sessions are free of charge and are provided by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. RSVP to Darrell LeMar, Darrell.LeMar@state.ma.us, by Monday, November 17. Please put "Tourism U" in the subject line and include your complete contact information.

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New Legal Services Food Hub for Farmers and Lawyers – Free Info. Session

November 19 - John W. Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Info for Lawyers: 6 – 6:45 pm - Info for Farmers: 7:15–8 pm. Light snacks and drinks will be available to all from 6:45–7:15pm.

Learn how the Legal Services Food Hub is connecting farmers and food entrepreneurs with pro bono legal help – and how local lawyers can get involved. All are welcome to attend the entire session or come just for the part that's most relevant to you:

- Learn how the Hub works
- Meet lawyers and farmers who have benefited from its services
- Find out how farmers & food entrepreneurs might get assistance
- Learn how lawyers can join this growing network

RSVP by Monday, November 17 to Molly Norton, mnorton@clf.org or 617-850-1771. Visit www.legalservicesfoodhub.org to learn more about our services and eligibility requirements.

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95th Annual Farm Bureau Meeting

December 4 & 5 – Umass, Amherst - Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's 95th Annual Meeting, will be co-hosted by Franklin & Hampshire County Farm Bureau's. The 2014 meeting will be held on December 4 at the Hotel UMass on the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Campus. Join your neighbors and friends in celebrating Massachusetts agricultural industry and the successes of the state's largest general farm organization.

This two-day event is where Farm Bureau members establish policy for the upcoming year, attend workshops and learning sessions, enjoy good food and entertainment and a bit of rest and relaxation away from the farm. This year's MFBF Annual Meeting is a value-packed program. The Delegate Session will be on Friday, December 5. [Details and registration here.](#)

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Product Development Workshop

December 9 & 10 - [CropCircle Kitchen](#), UMASS Amherst, and Franklin County CDC Western MA Food Processing Center. A two day, content-filled course with food safety and product development expert Amanda Kinchla. \$100/2-day course. Do you want to better understand the food safety principles behind your process? Do you need help with product development for your current or future food product? Propel your business to the next level by delving into product development and food safety. [Details here.](#)

If you're looking for cold storage and processing space, consider CropCircle Kitchen (CCK), Boston, a shared use kitchen commissary and business incubator. The CCK's new Dorchester facility has 1,800 SF of cold storage plus 1,600 SF of frozen storage available for small and large quantities of produce. They have the capacity to do contract prep work and light processing with steam kettles, tilt skillets, multiple convection ovens, and a blast freezer. Contact CCK at 617-522-7900, info@cropcirclekitchen.org, www.cropcirclekitchen.org.

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Greenhouse Vegetable Production – In Containers

December 10 - Publick House, Sturbridge, MA. Sponsored by UMass Extension. Growing greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers and greens in containers. [Details and registration.](#)

January 27 – **Save the Date! - Winter Flower Grower's Program** - More info coming soon!


3rd Massachusetts Farm to Cafeteria Conference

January 13 - College of the Holy Cross, Worcester. This conference brings together farm to cafeteria advocates – farmers, food service professionals, educators, policy makers, public health advocates, community organizers, youth leaders and more – for a day-long event with workshops and panel discussions addressing a wide variety of farm to school topics including: local foods procurement and promotion, experiential food and nutrition education, food, farm, and nutrition policy, growing for the institutional market, state, regional, and local networking. www.massfarmtoschool.org.

28th Annual NOFA/Mass Winter Conference

January 10 - Worcester State University. This year's Winter Conference will offer a diverse line-up of more than 60 workshops, exhibits by numerous regional vendors, an [all-day seminar](#) and keynote by Greg Judy, a rotational grazer and carbon sequestration advocate. [Complete details and registration here.](#)

Harvest New England Agricultural Marketing Conference and Trade Show

February 25 and 26 - Sturbridge Host, Sturbridge, MA. The New England State Departments of Agriculture, in cooperation with agricultural organizations across the region, graciously invite you to attend this biennial conference and trade show. This unique marketing conference offers New England growers sessions on new marketing ideas, promotion, business planning, ag-tourism, managing farmers' markets, agriculture commissions, and more. There will be multiple educational and networking opportunities along with a Trade Show. Pencil this in your calendar and look for details in the coming months! [Save the Date postcard](#)  Updates will be posted at harvestnewengland.org.

March 31 - Agriculture Day at the Statehouse - [flyer](#) 

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USDA NEWS

USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection Program Deadlines

Enrollment Continues Through Dec. 5; Comments Accepted Until Dec. 15 - USDA is extending the deadlines for the dairy Margin Protection Program. Farmers now have until Dec. 5, 2014, to enroll in the voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill. The program provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

Producers are encouraged to use the online Web resource at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation. The secure website can be accessed via computer, smartphone or tablet. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also extended the opportunity for public comments on both the Margin Protection Program and the Dairy Product Donation Program until Dec. 15, 2014.

Comments can be submitted to USDA via the regulations.gov website at <http://go.usa.gov/GJSA>

Briefs / Classified / Job Opportunities

Notice - Request for Proposal - 10-year Agreement - 40 Acre Cranberry Bog. The Town of Carlisle is accepting proposals for the farming of a 40-acre Cranberry Bog located at Curve Street, Carlisle, MA. Three floors of a four-floor Cranberry Bog House are also included. The Cranberry Bog is owned by the Town of Carlisle and managed by the Carlisle Conservation Commission. The historical bog is the only working cranberry bog in Middlesex County. The farmer must be willing to accept the conditions associated with a publicly owned working cranberry bog, including the use of portions of the bog by the public for passive recreation. The bog is available on November 1, 2015 for a term of 10-years; an extension for an additional 10-years is available upon request and approval. Copies of the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained at the Carlisle Town Hall, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM from Monday through Friday. It is also available on the town's website found at: www.carlislema.gov. Requests for inspections should be directed to the Conservation Administrator, Sylvia Willard at (978) 369-0336.

How to Place a Classified Ad

Classified ads are accepted free-of charge on a first-come basis. Be sure to include a phone number. No display ads will be accepted. Only one ad per business/individual per issue, unless space permits. Ads may run in consecutive issues, space permitting. Ads must be of interest to Massachusetts farmers. The Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) reserves the right to refuse any listing it deems inappropriate for publication. E-mail, fax or mail ads to: Farm & Market Report, MDAR, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114, fax: 617-626-1850, Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us.

MDAR

<u>Boston Office:</u> 251 Causeway St., Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114 617-626-1700, Fax: 617-626-1850	<u>Amherst Satellite Office:</u> 101 University Drive, Suite C4 Amherst, MA 01002 413-548-1900, Fax: 413-548-1901
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- Mary Jordan, Director of Agricultural Markets, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us
- Gerard Kennedy, Director of Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance, Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us

Next issue to be published for December / January. Please send news, calendar and/or classified information by December 12 to Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us. To unsubscribe or change your address, send an e-mail message to Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us or call 617-626-1759.



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/MDARCommish.